

Old Stone Fort  
Middletown Vicinity  
Frederick County  
Virginia

HABS No. 210

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Prepared at Washington Headquarters  
for District of Virginia

OLD STONE FORT  
Near Middletown, Frederick Co., Va.

Owner: Mrs. F. E. Kline

Date: 1755 et. seq.

Builder: Unknown

Condition: Poor

Description: The building is of native stone, two full stories high beneath a gable roof. It has inside end chimneys. The front and rear are six bays in length and the end elevations show a pair of windows on each floor centering on the chimneys. The original house which was a story and a half and two bays long was incorporated into the large house about 1800.

The early house is the most interesting part of the structure as it is a typical Shenandoah Valley "fort" or defensive refuge for the neighborhood against the Indians. In the north wall of the basement room is a small splayed opening at shoulder height said to be a rifle loop hole. In the center is a branched wrought iron swivel which served the double purpose of preventing small animals from entering and apparently as a rifle rest. In the foundation of the chimney is a pool formed by a spring. This was arranged so drinking water would be available in times of siege. An overflow carries the water across the floor in a rill and through the whole length of the house to the south end.

On the first floor a curious plan was used that was evolved in Pennsylvania and was widely used in the areas of German settlement in North Carolina. The house is divided by a sheathed longitudinal partition forming a large east room. The western area is again divided by a cross partition into two small square rooms. As these were away from the chimney they were unheated.

The remainder of the house has good woodwork of the period of the alterations.

*James H. Waterman*

*Apr. 25. 1941*